

Sec. 47-73. Testing meters; adjustments to bills.

(a) In case any consumer of water questions the correctness of a city water meter, he may obtain a test thereof upon written request therefor to the department. The customer may additionally request that he be permitted to be present at the removal and testing of the meter in person or by agent.

(b) Upon the receipt of a written request therefor the city shall cause the meter to be thoroughly and accurately tested. If the party complaining of the meter has requested that he be present for the removal and testing of the meter, he shall be given reasonable notice of the time thereof and be afforded the opportunity to be present and participate therein.

Section 29. That Subsection (c) of Section 47-73 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(c) All meters must meet the accuracy test guidelines of the American Water Works Association. The department shall adjust customer bills for up to 24 months on the basis of results of tests performed by the department. If the meter or register is defective, the department shall repair or replace it. If a meter is damaged so that it cannot be tested, the customer's account may be adjusted for up to 24 months based on the average usage.

Section 30. That Subsection (d) of Section 47-73 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby repealed.

Section 31. That Subsection (e) of Section 47-73 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is hereby redesignated as Subsection (d) and amended to read as follows:

(d) When the department retests the meter at the request of the customer, the department shall bill the customer for the cost as follows:

(1) If a customer requests that a meter be tested that is within the manufacturer's warranty period, and such meter when tested is accurate under the American Water Works Association guidelines; or

(2) If the department has tested the meter within the previous 12 months, and such meter when retested at the request of the customer is accurate under the American Water Works Association guidelines, then the department shall charge the customer: For field testing of meters less than three inches: \$25. For bench testing of meters less than three inches: \$50 plus cost of the new meter and related electronic devices. For bench testing 3 inch and larger meters: \$170 plus cost of the new meter.

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